

**MALES OF *TACHIONA DEPLANATA* SHARP AND  
*T. NITIDA* ASHE (COLEOPTERA: STAPHYLINIDAE)  
WITH NOTES ON THE HABITAT OF THESE SPECIES**

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*Abstract.*—Males of *Tachiona deplanata* Sharp and *T. nitida* Ashe are described and illustrated. Specimens of *Tachiona* were collected from the inside of larval excavations of Hepialidae (Lepidoptera) in *Buddleja parviflora*.

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Four species of the unusual Central American staphylinid genus *Tachiona* Sharp have been described (Ashe and Wheeler, 1988; Ashe, in press). Two of these species are known only from females. *Tachiona deplanata* Sharp was known only from the original type series of three females. These were collected from Cordoba in the state of Veracruz, Mexico, and were described in the *Biologia Centrali Americana* (Sharp, 1883–1887). To my knowledge the species had not subsequently been collected until this past summer. *T. nitida* Ashe was described from a single female specimen collected in 1987 near Maltrata, at 1,900 meters, in the state of Veracruz, Mexico, by J. K. Liebherr and D. A. Millman (Ashe and Wheeler, 1988). Recently I collected 75 specimens, including males and females, of *T. deplanata* and a single male of *T. nitida* in the state of Veracruz, Mexico, 10.6 km W Mendoza, hwy 150, 1,860 meters, 18 July 1990. This collection provided the opportunity to describe and provide illustrations of the taxonomically important male characteristics and to briefly describe the habitat of these two species.

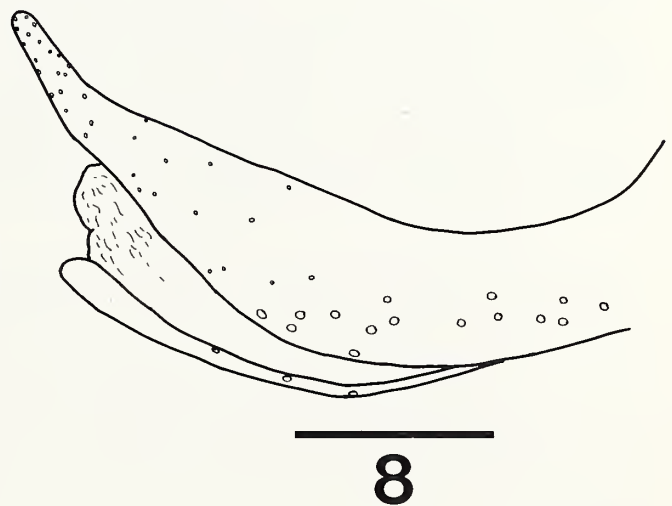
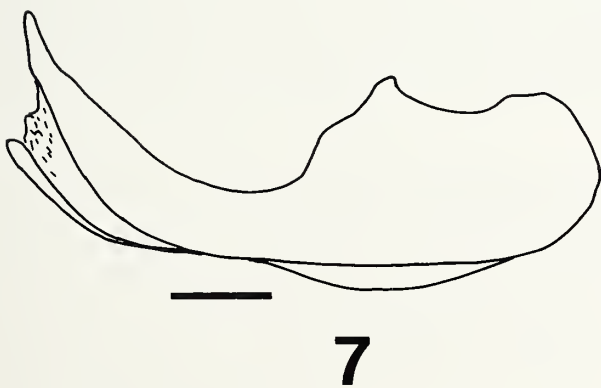
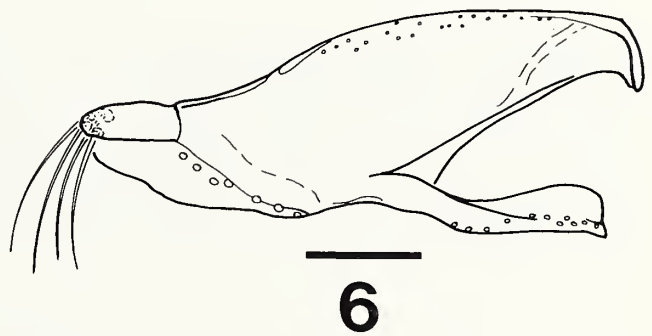
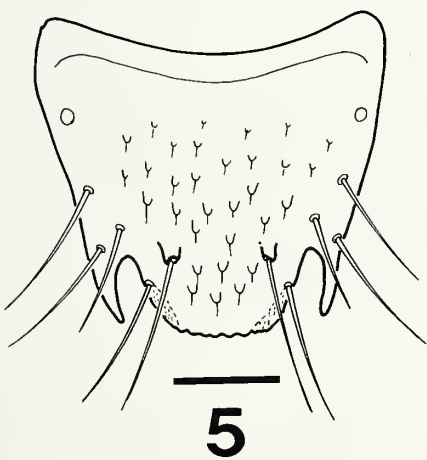
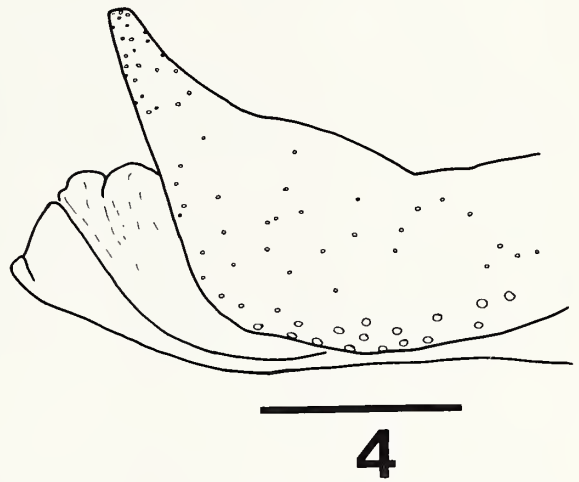
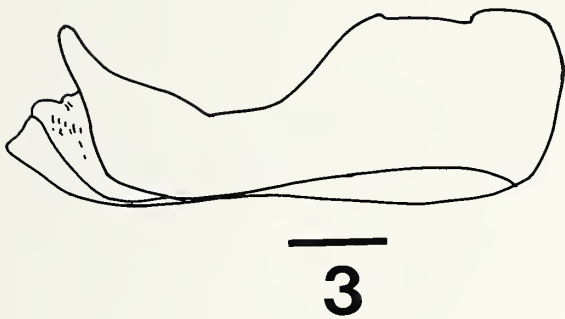
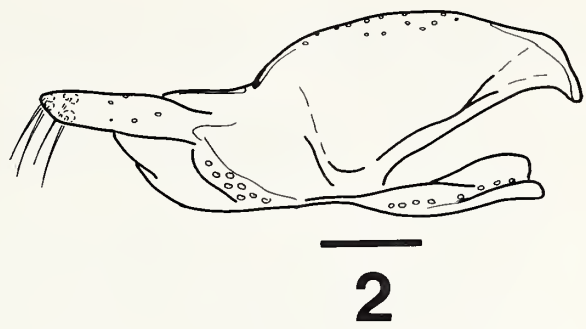
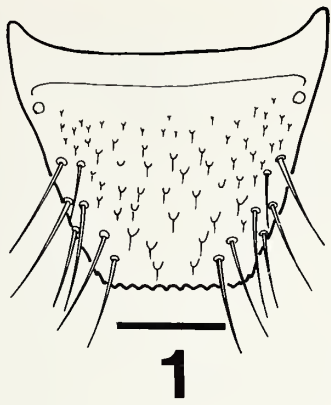
Males of *Tachiona deplanata* Sharp. Similar to females (see Ashe and Wheeler, 1988) with the following secondary sexual characteristics. Tergum VII without medial carina or longitudinal ridge. Tergum VIII produced posteriorly as a broad more or less truncate lobe, apical margin of lobe serrate (Fig. 1); surface of terga VII and VIII with numerous large, posteriorly directed asperities. Median lobe of aedeagus as in Figures 3, 4. Paramere as in Figure 2.

Males of *Tachiona nitida* Ashe. Similar to female (see Ashe and Wheeler, 1988) with the following secondary sexual characteristics. Tergum VII with small but distinct spinose carina on each side of midline and numerous scattered posteriorly directed asperities. Tergum VIII produced posteriorly as broad lobe, posterior margin of lobe deeply incised near each lateral border to produce a prominent spine on each side, medial portion of lobe broadly rounded and finely crenulate medially, surface

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Figs. 1–4. *Tachiona deplanata* Sharp, male features. 1. Tergum VIII. 2. Paramere of aedeagus, external aspect. 3. Median lobe of aedeagus, lateral aspect. 4. Detail, apical lobe of aedeagus. Figs. 5–8. *Tachiona nitida* Ashe, male features. 5. Tergum VIII. 6. Paramere of aedeagus, external aspect. 7. Median lobe of aedeagus, lateral aspect. 8. Detail, apical lobe of aedeagus. (Scale line = 0.1 mm.)



of tergum with a low spine on each side of midline and numerous, posteriorly directed asperities (Fig. 5). Median lobe of aedeagus as in Figures 7, 8. Paramere as in Figure 6.

*Habitat notes.* The vegetation at 1,860 meters where these beetles were collected is primarily a somewhat xeric oak forest with a moderately dense understory of shrubs and small trees. A few pines are present, but these become more common at slightly higher elevations. All specimens of *Tachiona* were collected from the insides of webs covering hepialid moth burrows in *Buddleja parviflora* H.B.K. At this locality, *B. parviflora* is an abundant understory small tree. It is characterized by knarled or contorted multiple trunks, stringy bark, and silvery, opposite leaves. It is quite different in appearance from the smooth-barked *Trema* trees which served as the hosts of hepialid larvae in Costa Rica, the webs of which also contained numerous specimens of *Tachiona* (Ashe, in press). Hepialid burrows were abundant in trunks of *B. parviflora*, especially near the base of the tree. Specimens of *Tachiona* were found inside the webs of all burrows which contained an active hepialid larva. Webs covering burrows from which hepialids had emerged, even if very recently, did not contain either adults or larvae of *Tachiona*. At the date of this collection, most hepialids had already emerged, and consequently only about 1 in 10 of the webs contained *Tachiona*. *Tachiona deplanata* was by far the most abundant of the two species, and *Tachiona* larvae were associated with adults of this species in several webs. These larvae are very similar to those of *T. latipennis* Ashe and *T. nitida* described by Ashe and Wheeler (1988). The single *T. nitida* adult was collected from a web which also contained several adults of *T. deplanata*.

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